AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the heading at line 1 on page 11 of the specification with the following amended heading:

~~Table 1~~Figure 5

Please replace the heading at line 18 on page 11 of the specification with the following amended heading:

~~Table 2~~Figure 6

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 14 with the following paragraph:

Following electroportation, transfection frequencies of 30 x 10^{-6} and 1.5 x 10^{-6} were obtained for RBL-2H3 intermediate secretors (I) and RBL-2H3 high secretors (H), respectively. On the basis of hFceRiα expression, three clones, namely 1 5/3/C, H 2/2/C and H 7/1/A, were selected for further studies. ~~Table 1~~ Figure 5 shows the relative number of receptors, following induction with Dex, demonstrating rat IgE and human IgE binding, rat IgE binds to the humanized receptor but with a 10-fold lower affinity than the natural ligand. As the interaction of hIgE with its receptor is an order of magnitude higher than the interaction of rat IgE with its receptor, the net result is that rat IgE engages hFceR1α with the same affinity as the rodent receptor. In addition to the data in ~~Table 1~~Figure 5, the rates of association and dissociation of rat and hIgE with 1 5/3/C and rat IgE with the parental line RBL-2H3 (I), and the K_d values calculated from these on/off rates were consistent with published data.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 16 and 17 with the following paragraph:

Employing this cell-line, we were able to demonstrate that even in the absence of IgE several well defined allergens, (which in susceptible individuals give rise to an IgE response following the initial encounter) such as bee and vespid proteins, phospholipases, proteases from house dust mites and fungal spores, lectins present in pollen and grain, latex-associated products and spermicides, and aspirin based drugs can trigger the release of substantial levels of mediators of the allergic response from these cells (see ~~Table 2~~Figure 6).